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Denial Sought

Ramparts Charges CIA Intimidation

By Richard Harwood
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Ramparts magazine made public yesterday its version of the financial marriage and divorce of the National Student Association and Covert Action Division No. 5 of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Before the relationship was disclosed this year, Ramparts said, CIA had poured millions into the college student organization and NSA officials had gone to such Government figures as Vice President Hubert Humphrey in a vain effort to end their financial dependence on the intelligence agency.

Moreover, the magazine said, the CIA "viciously turned on" former NSA president Philip Sherburne "to intimidate him into publicly denying" that the relationship had ever existed.

The story is told in advance proofs of an article that is to appear in Ramparts next month. The major revelations in the article have already been confirmed substantially by the State Department.

The story began in the 1950s when the U.S. Government became alarmed at the Communist take-over of international student groups in Europe. In response to this problem, NSA set up a new International Student Conference in 1950 in cooperation with 18 other national student organizations. The new organization flourished, and "kept to a rigid

Cold War line" under NSA leaders "who seemed more like professional diplomats than students."

Only a tiny handful of NSA's officers, Ramparts said, were aware that the organization was tied into the CIA, derived from the agency important financial support for its international activities, and was treated, in turn, by CIA as "an arm of U.S. foreign policy."

The money and the policy direction, Ramparts said, came from Covert Action Division No. 5 of the CIA's Plans Division, whose personnel included former NSA officers.

The magazine, said the money was channeled to NSA through an intricate maze of "foundations," some of which may be nothing more than dummy conduits for CIA funds. They included the Borden Trust of Philadelphia, the Price Fund of New York, the Beacon Fund of Boston, the Kentfield Fund of Dallas, the Edsel Fund of San Francisco, the San Jacinto Fund of Houston, the Tower Fund and the Appalachian Fund, for

which no addresses have been given.

Through these conduits, Ramparts claimed, CIA money was passed to various private foundations and organizations such as the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs, the J. Frederick Brown and Independence Foundations of Boston, the Sidney and Esther Rabb Charitable Foundation of Boston, and the Fairfield Foundation.

These foundations, in turn, said Ramparts, passed on money to NSA and such other groups as Independent Research Service, the International Student Conference, Policy Research, Inc., the American Society for African Culture, and the International Development Foundation.

In the case of NSA, Ramparts said the CIA funds were used solely for its international activities and to permit NSA delegates and officers to travel abroad and take part in international student meetings.

For NSA officials, the magazine said, "it meant lots of money, a sense of doing im-

portant work, overseas travel and, perhaps, most important of all, very little feeling of having sold out one's political convictions . . . The CIA relationship meant something more personal, too. For years, elected (and appointed) officials and staffers of NSA have been getting draft deferments . . . for having an 'occupation vital to the national interest.'"

The few NSA officers aware of the relationship, according to Ramparts, were required to take the secrecy oath prescribed in the National Security Act. But the story broke as a result of a conversation that occurred in March, 1966 between Phil Sherburne, the NSA president at that time, and Michael Wood, NSA's director of development.

Sherburne told Wood the whole story and subsequently took steps to end the relationship with CIA.

Ramparts said Sherburne demanded that NSA make its own policy decisions, independent of CIA, and went to Vice President Humphrey for help. Ramparts says he told

Humphrey of the CIA connection and asked the Vice President to help NSA become financially independent. Humphrey, according to the magazine, tried to raise money for NSA from Roger Blough of U. S. Steel, Henry Ford, and David Rockefeller of the Chase Manhattan bank but "only a few hundred dollars came in."

The issue was finally forced, Ramparts said, by Wood who told the story to the magazine and who writes in the magazine that he has "betrayed" Sherburne's "personal trust" because of "my public trust as a citizen of the United States."